thereof; and (b) a hydroxyalkylating reagent selected from the group consisting of: a carbocyclic carbonate and a carbocyclic sulfite; in the presence of: (c) a phase transfer catalyst under conditions sufficient to form the dihydroxyl-functionalized material.

14. The process according to Claim 2, wherein the molar ratio of the hydroxyalkylating reagent to the dicarboxylic acid-functionalized material is from about 3.8 to about 4.5.

Please add the following new claims:

21. The process according to Claim 2, wherein said dicarboxylic acid-functionalized material has carboxyl-functional groups independently selected from the group consisting of: R and R^1, wherein each R and R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of: COOH or CAA^1-X-COOH, wherein each A and A^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halogen, cyano, linear or branched alkyl having from 1 to about 5 carbon atoms and wherein X is a linear or branched alkyl having from 1 to about 5 carbon atoms.

22. The process according to Claim 2, wherein said dicarboxylic acid-functionalized material has a molecular weight of from about 3,100 to about 4,200.

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendments. The attached pages are captioned "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 6, 7, 10, 11 and 16-18 have been withdrawn from consideration. New Claims 21 and 22 have been added.